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PATENT

IBM/177
Confirmation No. 3237

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Applicant: Robert Miller et al.
Serial No.: 09/845,596
Filed: April 30, 2001
For: GROUP ACCESS PRIVATIZATION IN CLUSTERED COMPUTER
SYSTEM

Art Unit: 2157
Examiner: Sargon N. Nano
Atty. Docket No.: IBM/177

APR 21 2005

RESPONSE AFTER FINAL

Mail Stop AMENDMENT
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This paper is submitted in reply to the final Office Action dated January 27, 2005, within the three-month period for response. Reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims are respectfully requested. Moreover, Applicants respectfully submit that the arguments presented herein do not raise any new issues, and are properly considered after final.

In the subject Office Action, the Examiner maintained the previous rejections. Specifically, claim 24 was again rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, and claims 1-27 were again rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,536,597 to Porter et al. Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejections to the extent they are maintained.

As an initial matter, Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the consideration granted in the telephonic interview conducted on April 20, 2005. In the interview, Applicants presented arguments regarding the differences between the claimed subject matter and Porter et al. Applicants also noted that the §112 rejection should be withdrawn, as Applicants amended the claim as suggested by the Examiner. The Examiner agreed to consider these arguments and issue a new action in due course.

Page 1 of 4
Serial No. 09/845,596
Response After Final dated April 21, 2005
Reply to Office Action of January 27, 2005
IBM Docket: ROC920000273US1
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